

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO AUSTRALIA ADD.1

FRANCE

- La France salue la publication par l'Australie d'un **Cadre général des droits de l'Homme**, consistant en différentes mesures destinées à renforcer la promotion et la protection des droits de l'Homme. Parmi ces mesures figurent l'élaboration d'un plan national d'action sur les droits de l'Homme, ainsi qu'un dispositif harmonisé de lois visant à lutter contre les discriminations sur l'ensemble du territoire. L'Australie peut-elle donner davantage d'informations sur ces mesures, et notamment les modalités d'élaboration et le calendrier prévu ? Ce cadre général se traduira-t-il à terme par l'adoption d'une Charte des droits ?

GERMANY

- UNHCR, several treaty bodies and the Special Rapporteur on the right to health are concerned about the mandatory detention of asylum-seekers in Australia. Germany would like to know if there are plans to change this system of mandatory detention in the future and what alternatives are envisaged?

NORWAY

- What institutional structures does Australia have in place to systematically implement and follow up on views and recommendations made by UN treaty bodies, special procedures and other UN human rights mechanisms? Are there any plans for previous recommendations' incorporation in Australian law?
- Australia has taken important steps to enhance the rights of women, not least on the legislative side. However, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women's report from 2010 points to remaining challenges. What steps will Australia take to increase women's participation in leadership and decision-making processes?
- Norway considers the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women as commendable. What additional measures have been taken in order to promote women's legal protection against sexual abuse and violence - in particular for indigenous women?
- In your National Report you mention overseas processing centres for asylum seekers and the closing of the Nauru centre in 2007. Australia continues to have an overseas processing centre on Christmas Island. Australia assure us that immigration detention centres overseas will be used only as a measure of last resort and for a very limited time?
- Australia has through the recent reinstatement of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 strengthened the combat of discrimination on inter alia grounds of ethnic origin. However, through the Northern Territory Emergency Response certain special measures are still intact for indigenous communities. What

additional measures are envisaged in order to further strengthen the civil rights of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islands people in Australia?

- National and international reports indicate a certain de facto discrimination of persons of indigenous origin with regard to inter alia the area of health and in the housing sector. What is the Australian government's assessment of the situation for these persons when it comes to discrimination in different areas such as education, health, employment and housing?

SLOVENIA

- Is it true that the State-funded essential services are only available to Aboriginal communities if a community agrees to hand over control of their property for a fixed amount of time?
- Has Australia in recent years been in breach of its obligation under Articles 31 and 33 of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees?